



# Fire Update

## Meadow Fire

Nez Perce  
National Forest

September 10, 2006 9:00 am

Internet Address: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/gvc>

or: <http://www.inciweb.org>

For Fire Information Phone: (208) 842-9225 open 8 am to 9 pm

### For Immediate Release

#### Fire Facts

The Meadow Fire is managed by Doug Turman's Northern Rockies Incident Management Team.

**Date Started:** September 3, 2006    **Cause of Ignition:** lightning    **Location:** Red River, Idaho

**Size:** 6,400 acres    **Percent Contained:** 10%    **Estimated Time of Containment:** Unknown

**Number of Personnel:** 203    **Equipment:** 1 feller buncher, 1 dozer, 1 skidgine, 5 engines, 3 water tenders, 2 excavators, 1 brush cutter

**Aircraft:** Shared air resources with the Nez Perce NF and other surrounding large fires

**20-person crews:** 5, including 2 Hotshot crews

**Cost to date:** \$509,000    **Injuries Today:** 0

**Cooperators:** Idaho County Sheriff's Department, Idaho County Emergency Management Services, Nez Perce National Forest

### Weather Changes Influence the Meadow Fire

**Red River, Idaho** –Thunderstorms over and around the Meadow Fire Saturday afternoon had little effect on the fire as it continued to burn through vegetation in the interior and portions of the fire's perimeter. The fire received various amounts of rain with the storm cells that passed through. Roads on the west side have been treated to remove brush and provide a contingency line in case the fire spreads in that direction. Acreage of the Meadow fire remained at 6,400 acres. Two 20-person crews were moved from the Meadow Fire to support the Nez Perce National Forest firefighters on the Baker Fire southwest of Elk City.

The Incident Command Post for the Meadow Fire is located at Red River Ranger Station and the fire camp is located at York's field. Local residents are encouraged to reduce speeds due to increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

#### Yesterday's Fire Activities

Crews continued to maintain sprinkler systems, hoses and pumps around residences in the area between Red River Corrals and Red River Hot Springs, and continued to support structure protection efforts on the northwest side of the fire closest to private land. The fire slowly backed through areas with heavy concentrations of fuel. Unburned ground fuels are the primary carrier of the fire's progression. Single and group tree torching continued throughout the day. Large fuels continue to burn. Minor uphill runs occurred on ridges exposed to winds. Firefighting resources, including engines and water tenders, continued to patrol and monitor the northwest and west side of the fire to keep the fire from moving further downslope into Red River and to support structure protection activities. Fortunately, there have been no evacuations during this fire event.

There was not much movement on the fire's perimeter, with most burning being confined to pockets of unburned vegetation within the perimeter. The fire continues to slowly back downslope into the Red River drainage within the fire perimeter wherever there are continuous fuels. The Magruder Corridor was patrolled for spot fires and structure

protection is in place at 14 Mile Trailhead, Granite Springs Campground and Green Mountain Lookout. The fire has burned to within several hundred yards of Granite Springs Campground.

### **Today's Planned Events**

Today's priority will continue to be firefighter and public safety. Primary emphasis will continue to be structure protection along Forest Road 234 between Red River Corrals and Red River Hot Springs. Crews will continue with hazardous fuel reduction activities around residences and private land.

Safety zones, lookout vantage points and long escape routes for firefighters have been established throughout the fire area. The number one hazards continue to be snags and green trees with weakened root systems from fire damage and moist soils. The Magruder Corridor (Montana Road) will continue to be in patrol status with facilities protection in place at 14-mile trailhead, Granite Springs Campground and Green Mountain Lookout. Crews and equipment will complete a machine and hand line from Road 9542 to the 505 trail and between Road 9541 and 9542 and patrol areas on the fire perimeter for hot spots and fire activity.

Two 20-person crews and a water tender from the Meadow Fire have been temporarily assigned to the 27-acre Baker Fire located southwest of Elk City. They will continue with mop-up efforts. Movement of these crews has not reduced the number of crews and equipment assigned to the Meadow Fire in the vicinity of residences and private land along Red River.

### **Today's Weather Forecast and Fire Behavior**

Yesterday's light rainfall, combined with moderate relative humidity, will restrain fire activity today. However, there is still a great deal of uncontrolled fire perimeter. Ground vegetation under the tree canopy is still dry and will contribute to single and group tree torching. The fire will continue to slowly creep around in heavy concentrations of ground fuel. Tree regeneration in past harvest units will be effective barriers to fire spread in these conditions.

The cold front that crossed the fire area late yesterday afternoon brought scattered rain and lightning. Maximum temperatures will reach 70-75 in the fire area and near 80 degrees at the Red River Ranger Station. Minimum relative humidity between 22-26 percent will contribute to slow burning activity across the fire.

Weather outlook for Monday is for a warming and drying trend as a ridge of high pressure builds. Temperature in the upper 70's and low 80's are expected with humidity 15-20%. Tuesday's temperatures will warm to the low to mid 80's.

### **Area, Road and Trail Closures**

For public safety, an area closure is currently in effect throughout the area surrounding the fire, including areas where the fire is most likely to spread as it becomes active. Access to the forest is closed at the following locations: Forest Road 234 (except to local residents) and the Magruder Corridor (Montana Road) at the Red River Ranger Station; Poet Creek on the east side of the Magruder Corridor; and Black Hawk Mountain. The closure is not expected to be lifted until fire conditions improve. Visit the Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/gvc> or [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org) for maps and other information about the closure.

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